

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the abstract on page 27 with the following rewritten abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

A particle-enhanced assay for determining an analyte in a test sample in which an additive for reducing non-specific particle aggregation is added in an amount to substantially reduce non-specific aggregation. The additive is selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, trimethanolamine, N-butyldiethanolamine, 3-dimethylamino-2-methylpropyl chloride, N,N-dimethylglycine, N,N-dimethylguanidine, N,N-dimethylglycine ethyl ester, 3-dimethylaminopropionitrile, and N,N-diethylacetamide.